REMARKS

Claims 1 through 53 are pending in this application.

Claims 13, 28, 44 and 52 have been identified as allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Claims 1-12, 14-27, 29-43, 45-51, and 53 are rejected.

Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of all objections and rejections for the reasons identified in the attached draft brief, and further respectfully request that there be an early notice of allowance.

SUMMARY

Applicants do not believe that any other fees are due at this time; however, should any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 to 1.21 be required for any reason relating to this document, the Commissioner is authorized to deduct the fees from Deposit Account No. 50-1673, Order . Number 069092.0124.

Respectfully submitted,

Howard L. Speight

Reg. No. 37,733 Baker Botts L.L.P.

910 Louisiana

Houston, Texas 77002

Telephone: (713) 229-2057 Facsimile: (713) 229-2757

E.Mail: howard.speight@bakerbotts.com

ATTORNEY FOR APPLICANTS

Date: June 22, 2004